

Crime and security

Spring 2021

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Aims & intended learning outcomes

- To provide students a broad overview of concepts and facts in penal studies.
- Will benefit students interested in social science, urban governance and careers in civil service.

Brief description

Crime and security is a general course in ‘punishment and society’ studies, which discusses large-scale issues (penal paradigms, historical developments in crime control, explanations for the variation of punishment in time and space), different sorts of crime (from homicides to burglaries and drug trafficking, sex work, domestic violence and employee theft), and crime control policies (policing, prisons, situational crime prevention).

The course will discuss theories, concepts and controversies with an emphasis on existing policies and empirical data. It will mobilize readings from different disciplines (sociology, economics, history, criminology) and using different methods (ethnography, econometrics, meta-analysis), so as to maximize the intellectual benefit for students who are enthusiastic about learning.

Assessment

- An individual in-class oral presentation of one of the weekly readings (20%)
- A collective written essay on a topic of the students’ choice (with the instructor’s assent), circa 3000-4000 words, discussing the issue with contrasting scholarly perspectives and an abundance of contextual data (80%).

Calendar

To be announced.

Syllabus

1. Introduction to perennial problems of penal studies

- introductions and assignments
- the definition of crime and the problem of relativism
- crime statistics

- realism and constructivism in penal studies

2. Penal paradigms

- punishment before penal welfarism
- penal welfarism
- Garland's "new criminologies"

David Garland, *The culture of control. Crime and social order in contemporary society*, Oxford University Press, 2001 (chapters 2 and 3)

3. The historical evolution of security actors

- crime control in stateless societies
- the rise of state monopoly over legitimate violence
- privatization or formalization of crime control?

Max Weber, *Politics as a Vocation*, 1919.

David H. Bayley and Clifford D. Shearing, *The new structure of policing*, National Institute of Justice, 2001

4. Punishment and welfare: the principle of less eligibility

- punishment and welfare in historical perspective
- the inverse relation today
- explaining the diversity of criminal policies

Georg Rusche. Labor market and penal sanction: Thoughts on the sociology of criminal justice. *Crime and Social Justice*, (10), 2-8, 1978 (original edition 1933).

François Bonnet. Chapter 1: The upper limit, in *The upper limit*, University of California Press, 2019.

5. Street crime

- crime numbers in time and space
- the invariants: age and gender
- the debates around class and poverty
- theories of crime

Amy E. Nivette. Cross-national predictors of crime: A meta-analysis. *Homicide Studies* 15.2 (2011): 103-131.

6. Transactional crime

- drug trafficking
- sex work
- contemporary debates about legalization

Randol Contreras, Chapter 7 : Getting the Shit, in *The stickup kids*, University of California Press, 2013.

Eva Rosen and Sudhir Alladi Venkatesh. A "perversion" of choice: Sex work offers just enough in Chicago's urban ghetto. *Journal of contemporary ethnography* 37.4 (2008): 417-441.

7. The ubiquity of crime

- crime at home
- crime in the workplace
- online crime

Michael P. Johnson and Kathleen J. Ferraro. Research on Domestic Violence in the 1990s: Making Distinctions, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 62, 4, 2000, p. 948-963.

Amy Traub, *The Steal: The Urgent Need to Combat Wage Theft in Retail*, Demos, 2017

8. The police

- the political era and the rise the professional model
- law enforcement and order maintenance
- CompStat, community policing and police militarization

Herman Goldstein. Improving policing: A problem-oriented approach. *Crime & delinquency* 25.2 (1979): 236-258.

James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling. Broken windows. *The Atlantic Monthly* 249.3 (1982): 29-38.

9. Issues in policing

- discrimination, violence
- police and minorities
- riots in France and the United States: causes, responses, effects

Anthony Oberschall. The Los Angeles riot of August 1965. *Social Problems*, 15(3), 1968, 322-341.

Radley Balko. *Rise of the warrior cop*. PublicAffairs, 2013.

10. Prison

- prison rates in time and space
- prisoner reentry
- invited guest speaker (?)

Bruce Western et Katherine Beckett, How unregulated is the U.S. labor market ? The penal system as a labor market institution, *American Journal of Sociology*, 104 (4), 1999, pp. 1030-1060.

Greg Scott. 'It's a sucker's outfit' How urban gangs enable and impede the reintegration of ex-convicts." *Ethnography* 5.1 (2004): 107-140.

11. The effect of punishment on crime

- deterrence and incapacitation

- the effect of policing
- the brutalization hypothesis

Cesare Beccaria. *On crimes and punishments [Dei delitti e delle pene]*, 1764.

Alessandro Barbarino and Giovanni Mastrobuoni. The incapacitation effect of incarceration: Evidence from several Italian collective pardons. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 6.1 (2014): 1-37.

12. Situational crime prevention

- the situational conception of crime
- principles of situational crime prevention
- the functions of situational crime prevention

Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson, Social change and crime rate trends : A routine activity approach, *American Sociological Review*, 44 (4), 1979, pp. 588-608.

Clifford D. Shearing and Phillip C. Stenning. From the Panopticon to Disney World: the Development of Discipline. In *Perspectives in Criminal Law: Essays in Honour of John LL.J.Edwards*, edited by Anthony N. Doob and Edward L. Greenspan, Q.C., Canada Law Book Inc, 1984.